THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Kerala is not one of the 14 States to be covered by the Special Foodgrains Production Programme;

(b) The 169 Districts in 14 States viz., Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar; Gujarat; Haryana; Karnataka; Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab; Rajasthan Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. to be covered by the Special Foodgrains Production Programme were selected by a Task Force headed by the Member (Agriculture), Planning Commission, in which the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Water Resources were also represented. The States and Districts were identified on the basis of their production potential and the contribution they can make for enhancing foodgrains production during the remaining two years of the Seventh Five Year Plan taking into consideration the ftllowing:—

(i) Soil and rainfall conditions;

(ii) dependable water availability through surface and ground water schemes;

(iii) technological packages available on the basis of agro-climatic zones (cluster of districts); and

(iv) existing levels of development and rates of agricultural growth e.g., fertilizer use, irrigation potential created, etc.

Construction of rural houses costing Rs. 6000 with HUDCO assistance

*452. SHRI ATAL BIHARY VAJPAYEE:

SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the HUDCO provide 50 per cent of the Rs. 6000 which has been taken as the anticipated cost of a rural house;

(b) it so what is the number of houses actually constructed within the ceiling of Rs. 6000 so far, having basic amenities of drinking water, sanitation and drainage;

(c) what targets have been fixed for the construction of rural houses costing Rs. 6,000 during the current and the next year; and

(d) whether any escalation in cost has been estimated if so, what are the details thereof and what is HUDCO's corresponding revised contribution available?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Housing and Urban Development Corporation gives loan assistance for two Rural Housing Schemes for landless labourers belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections upto 50 per cent of the cost of the scheme subject to a ceiling of Rs. 6000/- and Rs. 10,000 per dwelling unit (Excluding land cost), carrying interest rate of 6 per cent and 7 per cent respectively repayble in 11 years. The loans are provided against State Government guarantee to agencies nominated by the State Governments.

(b) Upto 31st January 1988, 9.34 lakh houses with a cost ceiling of Rs. 6,00 per unit are reported to have been constructed by the borrowing agencies in different States. Basic amenities to these houses are provided by the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations under their plan programmes.

(c) HUDCO being essentially a financial institution does not fix any targets for the construction of houses. 15 per cent of the loanable funds of the HUDCO in each year are earmarked for Rural Housing Schemes for the Economically Weaker Sections. Accordingly, out of the target of loan sanc-sanctions of Rs. 355 crores fixed for the current year and the projected target of Rs. 390 cores for the next vear, the allocation for Rural Housing Schemes for the Economically Weaker Sections for the current year is Rs. 53.25 crores and that for the next is Rs. 58.5 crores.

(d) The financing terms of HUDCO are decided by the Government and the existing terms were fixed in December, 1985. If in certain areas of regions the cost per dwelling unit under a Rural Housing Scheme for landless labourers belonging to the E.W.S. exceeds Rs. 6,000, the scheme can be financed under the parallel scheme under which the ceiling cost per dwelling unit is Rs 10,000, as per the choice and affordability of the beneficiaries.

Foot and mouth diseases of animals

*453. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as a result of cross-breeding, high yielding variety of cows, buffaloes and other domestic animals have become prone to Foot and Mouth Diseases for which the entire farmer community in the country lost more than Rs. 500 crores each year;

(b) whether experiments are being carried out to identify the virus causing Foot and Mouth Diseases and to develop better vaccine against those Diseases to suit the Indian conditions; and

(c) what other measures are being taken by Government to save the farmers from this loss?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) The high-yielding cows, buffaloes and other domestic animals have not become prone to foot and mouth disease (FMD) because of cross-breeding as the disease was already prevalent in the country. However, the exotic and cross-bred cattle are more susceptible than the indigenous stock. The annual economic loss due to this disease as per one estimate is Rs. 510 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme 50 per cent subsidised vaccine is arranged for the benefit of small and marginal farmers and agricultural labourers for protecting their exotic cross-bred and highly valuable indigenous cattle buffaloes and sheep. Free mass vaccination is also arranged under Disease Free Zone Programme in four southern most districts of the country and as a FMD Pilot Project in 15 districts in and around Nilgiris.

Short-fall in the production of DMS milk

*454. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of the milk by the Delhi Milk Scheme has gone down at present;

(b) if so the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware of the hardships of the people in Delhi due to inadequate supply of milk;

(d) what is the percentage of cut imposed on milk distribution and whether it is uniform in all the areas;

(e) what are the factors responsible for the fall in the production of milk; and

(f) what steps have been taken to improve the situation and the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (f) The combined level of daily average supplies of milk by Delhi Milk Scheme and Mother Dairy, Delhi, during November, 1987 to February 1988, has been slightly more than what they supplied during the corresponding period of the previous year. No general cut as such has been imposed on the supplies of milk. However, due to the drought there has been general fall in the procurement of fresh milk. In order to maintain the existing level of supplies, procurement prices have been increased and suitable quantities of Skimmed Milk Powder and Butter Oil are being arranged for production of milk.